



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
& RESEARCH CENTER OAKLAND

Ethical Concerns in Programs for Infants, Young Children and Families

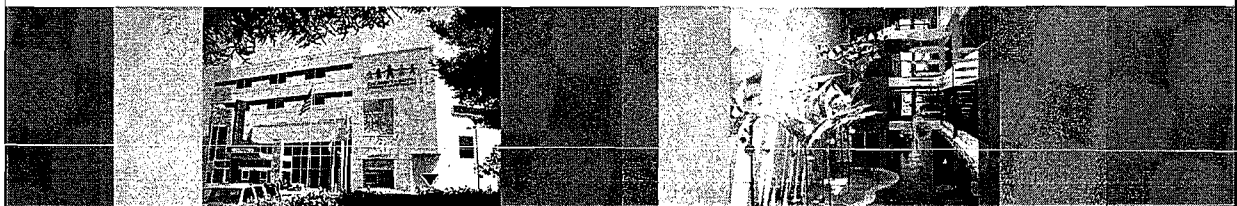
Presented by

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Early Intervention Services





Ethics-Not a Cookbook

How do we do the right thing ?

How do decisions/clinical and programmatic
get made?

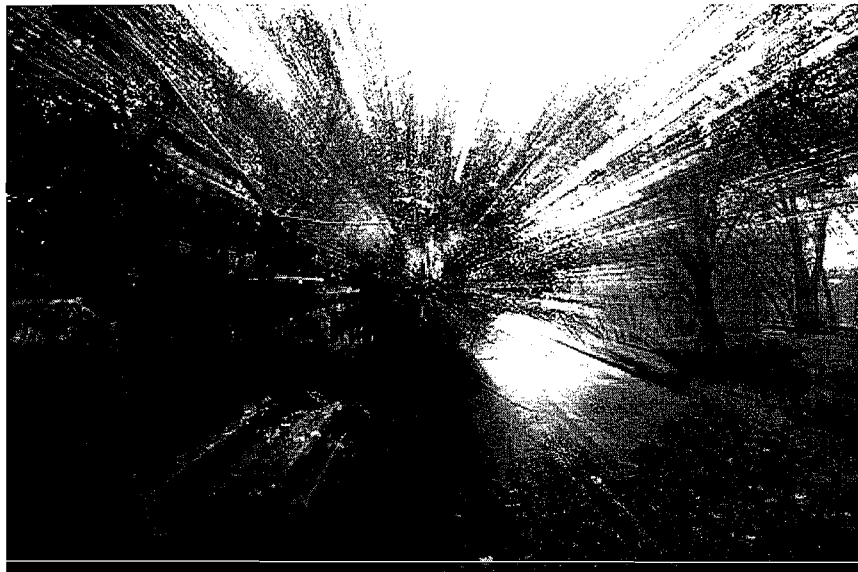
How do we avoid ethical errors?



MINDFULNESS EXERCISE



Internal pressures or the speed
of life can impede our ethical
decision making ability.





Kinds of situations that can cause ethical dilemmas

Personal pulls or beliefs

Cultural differences and practices

Individual needs in families and dyads

Differences of opinion

Solomon's choice

Discipline driven emphases



Holding an interpersonal and
inclusive center in ethical decisions

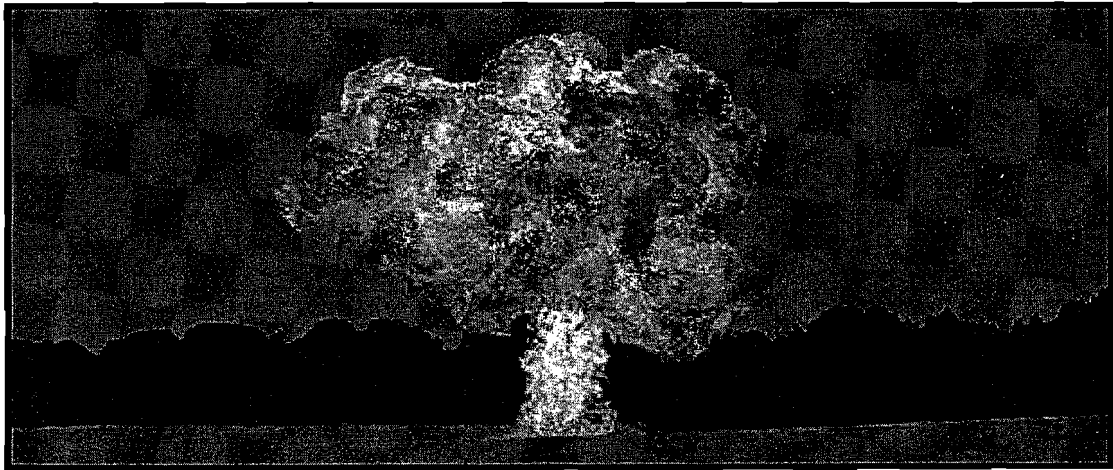
Holding a Picture that Includes the
Here and Now and the Future
The Individual and the Group



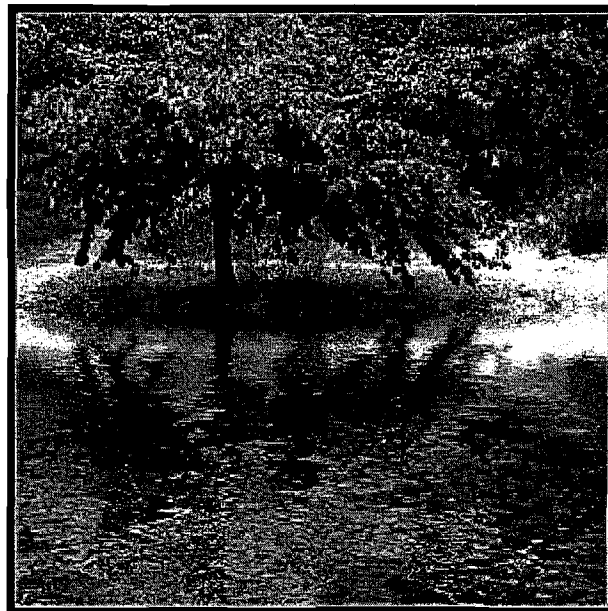
What Helps with Ethical Concerns?

- Acceptance that we have limitations in our own judgment and power
- Exercise of responsibility to consult, seek supervision, seek a reflective (not reactive) partner

Reactive?



Reflective





In Action and On Action

- It is important to reflect both “in action,” i.e., while doing something, and “on action,” i.e., on something that has occurred.
- What is the bigger meaning of what has happened or implications of each choice I have?



Beth
Before Supervision



Beth
After Supervision.



- Ethical mandate for self care in a demanding profession



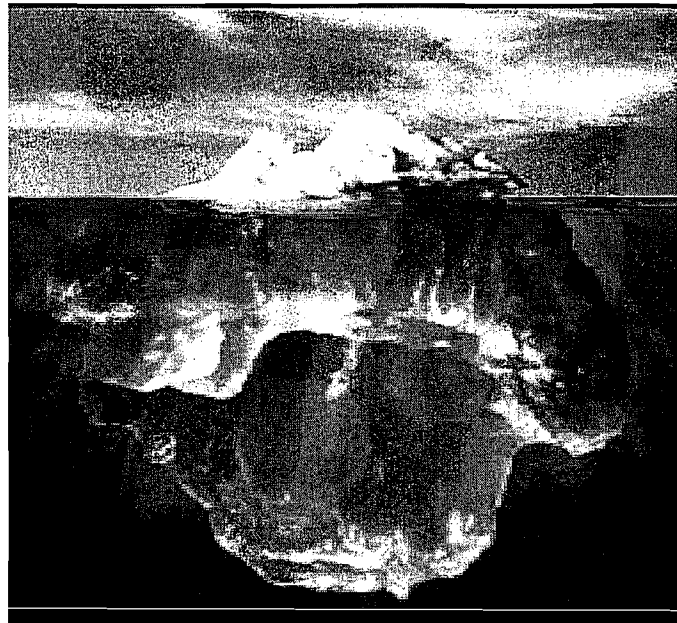
- Decision making around reunification, domestic violence and babies and children with medical and developmental vulnerabilities requires complex thinking and careful decision making.
- Vulnerability of the families and children as well as safety needs often pull for direct action rather than more reflective process that considers all angles.



- Collaboration with others who may not be as aware of confidentiality requirements creates a need for careful discussion of boundaries and information sharing.
- Delicate dance of intervening in worrisome or dangerous situations and the weight of decision-making is too hard and important to bear alone.
- Providing services in non-traditional settings (e.g., home) can be isolating and more demanding because of potential boundary and role confusion.



- Legal and ethical issues are more complex as the work is child-focused as well as family focused.
- Children 3 and under are more vulnerable, e.g., higher rates of abuse.
- Confidentiality issues are more complex because of the multidisciplinary nature of work.



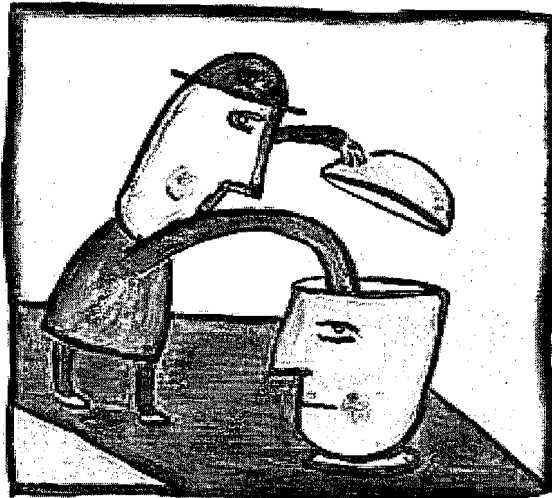


- Internal pressures that can get in the way of ethical decision making or that can cloud choices or actions.



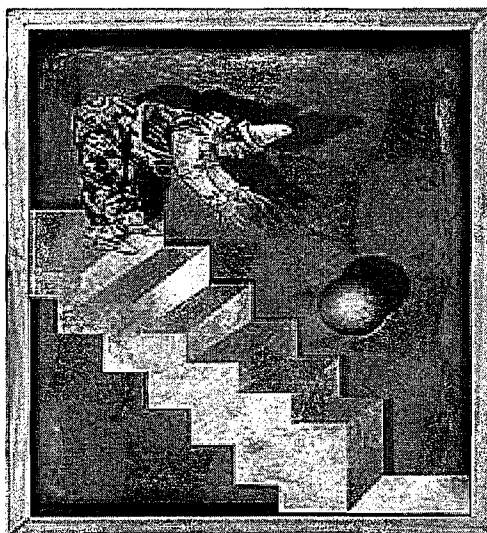
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Urge to Take Over – Or Have The Parent/Staff Do It “Right”



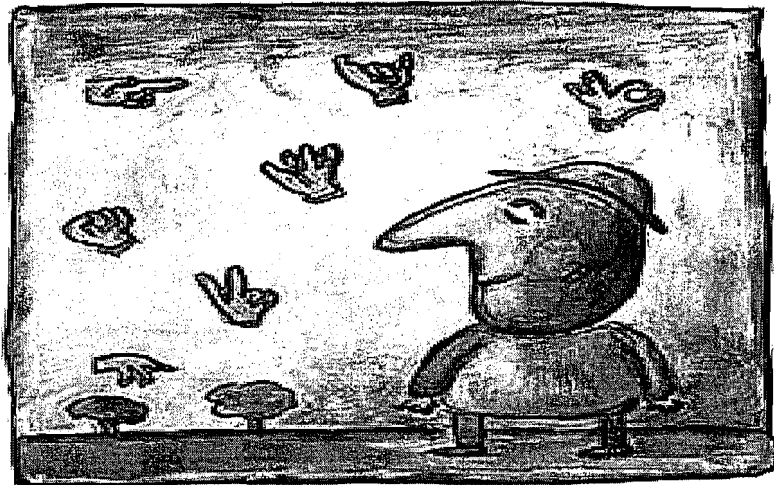
Prepared by the Early Intervention Services Unit, Child Development Center, Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland, CA

Sense of Fall from Competence – Feeling of “Dropping the Ball”



Prepared by the Early Intervention Services Unit, Child Development Center, Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland, CA

Desire for Approval and Appreciation



Prepared by the Early Intervention Services Unit, Child Development Center, Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland, CA

Unconscious Competition



Prepared by the Early Intervention Services Unit, Child Development Center, Children's Hospital & Research Center at Oakland, CA

Fear of Exposure

